

Village of Misenheimer
Council Meeting - Community Building
Monday, January 11, 2021 6PM

Council Present: Michael "Frizbee" Herron, Mayor
Jeff Watson, Mayor Pro Tem
Micah Edquist, Finance Officer
Peter Edquist
Mike Burrage

Staff: Anita Blair, Administrator/Clerk
Erik McGinnis, Police Chief

1. Call to Order: Mayor Herron called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

2. Moment of Silence: Mayor Herron requested that a moment of silence be observed.

3. Ethics Statement: Anita Blair read the Ethics Statement asking if any Council members present may have any potential conflict(s) of interest or any known or perceived conflict(s) of interest related to the meeting Agenda presented. None were noted.

4. Introduction of Visitors: No visitors were present.

5. Oaths of Office for Newly Elected Council Member – Mike Burrage: Anita Blair administered the Oaths of Office to Mike Burrage as Council Member and Deputy Finance Officer.

6. Approval 01/11/21 Agenda: Mike Burrage moved to approve the agenda as presented. Micah Edquist seconded the motion and it was approved by a 5/0 vote.

7. Approval 12/14/20 Council Meeting Minutes: Mike Burrage moved to approve the Council Meeting Minutes as presented from the 12/14/20 Council Meeting. Jeff Watson seconded the motion and it was approved by a 5/0 vote.

8. Public Comment Period – No public comments were offered.

9. Review Unaudited Financial Status at 12/31/20: Micah Edquist reported the following reconciled bank balances at 12/31/20 as follows:

General Fund	\$570,107
Powell Bill Fund	\$116,823
Carolina Thread Trail	\$ 21,451 (Grant #2) Trail Acquisition Grant (Village, Richfield & New London)

The final installment of \$25,000 was received for the Carolina Thread Trail Grant #2.

It was noted that \$35,000 of the Powell Bill funds have been committed and budgeted for the Wesley Chapel railroad crossing this year.

Council was informed that Connie Josey with Brown, Brown, and Brown, PLLC was contacted in November, 2020 to draft the needed easements for the sidewalk project from the Falcon Trail Head to the parking lot of the Pfeiffer University Storage Building near the Misenheimer Post Office. Notification was received in late December, 2020 that she was starting her own law firm as of January 1, 2021. Due to her departure, Brown, Brown & Brown, PLLC no longer has a real estate attorney on staff. Council was in agreement to let her draft the easement through her new firm, First Street Legal, although they want to continue the relationship with Brown, Brown, and Brown in the future.

10. Police Report – December, 2020: The Police Report reflected 65 traffic stops, 70 total charges, 9 warning citations and 1 arrest for the month of December, 2020. Eight motorists were issued citations with multiple charges. There were 17 mutual aid requests from the Stanly County Sheriff's Office and State Highway Patrol. There were 8 citations issued on US 52 and 23 citations on NC 49. The highest speed cited on Hwy 49 was 89 mph.

11. Tuition Policy Review: Council was informed that inquiries had recently been made about the Tuition policy. Two employees expressed interest in online classes at two universities that were not within the current policy.

In April, 2020, the Village Personnel Policy was adopted. At that time, a new Tuition Reimbursement policy was presented. The proposed Tuition Reimbursement policy was tabled which left the old Tuition Remission policy in force.

Council was presented six points for discussion to update the current policy.

Micah Edquist disagreed with this incentive. He stated that employees should be paid more in lieu of this incentive. Mayor Herron and Peter Edquist spoke in favor of supporting employee education. Chief Erik McGinnis stated that public safety agencies typically offer a reimbursement.

Peter Edquist moved to change the policy to a tuition reimbursement policy, including books, with a maximum yearly reimbursement of \$2000 to include fully accredited colleges/universities related to the employee's field of work and to leave the current degree incentives in place pertinent to their current employment. Micah Edquist seconded the motion and it was approved 5/0.

Mike Burrage left at this time.

12. Discuss and Select NCLM Advocacy Goals & Voting Delegate: Council reviewed the 17 North Carolina League of Municipalities (NCLM) Advocacy Goals and collectively selected 10 goals to be submitted. Peter Edquist moved to submit the following 10 goals for the Village of Misenheimer:

- 1) Grant local governments the authority to build broadband infrastructure in order to partner with private providers, and provide additional funding to help close the digital divide.
- 2) Secure federal and state aid directly to municipalities to offset all lost revenues due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 3) Expand incentives and funding for local economic development.
- 4) Create a permanent and adequate funding stream for local infrastructure needs.
- 5) Provide funding to keep aging water and sewer systems financial solvent today and viable for the future.
- 6) Ensure state funding for any new, state-mandated benefits for municipal employees.
- 7) Improve state-wide funding and support for LEO training focused on use of force, mental health and de-escalation skills.
- 8) Allow a short grace period for online posting of local emergency declarations while allowing them to take effect immediately.
- 9) Increase public safety grant funding and expand allowable uses.
- 10) Extend notification timeline for any changes to sales tax revenue disbursement.

Jeff Watson seconded the motion and it was approved 4/0.

Jeff Watson moved to elect Anita Blair the voting delegate to submit the Village Advocacy Goals. Micah Edquist seconded the motion and it was approved 4/0.

13. Other Business: Mayor Herron expressed his desire to install sidewalks on Wesley Chapel Road and from Lloyd's Antiques to the Clearview Apartments. A discussion of took place about both areas. A suggestion was made to invite the community to discuss sidewalks in general to see what the community wants when it is safe to do so.

14. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:48pm.

Mayor Michael "Frizbee" Herron

Date

Anita Blair, Administrator/Clerk

Date